

BOOK REVIEW

Invertebrate Immunity. Mechanisms of Invertebrate Vector-Parasite Relations. Karl Maramorosch and Robert E. Shope, Eds. Academic Press, Inc. New York, 1975. 365 pp., illustrated. \$16.50.

Invertebrate defense mechanisms is a relatively newly developed area of research, with much yet to be learned. This volume, which has been prepared from a workshop on invertebrate defense mechanisms sponsored by the National Institutes of Health and held in Bethesda Maryland April 17 and 18, 1974, makes an important and unique contribution by bringing together for the first time important papers by the leading researchers in this fascinating area. It is a stimulating volume, in that it identifies as many questions about invertebrate immunology and defense factors as it does in presenting research data. In fact, the editors state in the preface that "The authors were urged to bring out imaginative and provocative hypotheses and to suggest experimental approaches which might be applied to solutions".

The book is organized into four general areas: (1) Invertebrate gut as a barrier to invading parasites, (2) Analysis of invertebrate immunity, (3) Hemolymph components in invertebrate immunity, and (4) Vector destruction. Each section contains a short summary paper of about one page, which presents an overview of that section unifying the subject matter in an effective way by focusing the readers attention on the questions and problems emphasized in each of the chapters.

The papers are largely reviews of the particular subject brought up to date with original observations and data. This approach presents the reader with a very timely view of the subject matter, which I found particularly valuable. The illustrations are good and the organization attractive.

I enthusiastically recommend this volume as an invaluable reference to those interested in the area of invertebrate immunity, whether in teaching or research, and especially to the student for the presentation of a new and exciting area of invertebrate biology. The editors are to be congratulated for bringing this volume to such quick completion-barely over a year from conference to publication! Considering this accomplishment, the few typographical and other errors appear insignificant.

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